

Alan Dundes, ed. *Little Red Riding Hood: A Casebook*. Madison Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989. Pp. xi + 251, bibliography, notes, index. \$35.00 cloth, \$12.95 paper.

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With his *Little Red Riding Hood: A Casebook*, Alan Dundes has once again proven himself a delightful editor. In this collection of versions and interpretations of Little Red Riding Hood, Dundes invites the reader's involvement by allowing each piece to speak for itself. Introductory comments are confined to necessary background and bibliographic material, with Dundes's very occasional debate phrased in terms of scholarly trends instead of denying the unique value of each piece.

Dundes begins with several versions of the tale. The first two, those of Perrault ("Le petit chaperon rouge") and the brothers Grimm ("Rotkappchen"), are both literary and familiar, though these full versions will probably hold surprises for many readers. They are followed by Paul Delarue's 1951 essay describing a number of French oral variants of the Red Riding Hood tale, and their relation to Perrault's rendering. A final example of the tale is included in Wolfram Eberhard's sociological discussion of variation in 241 texts of the story of "Grandaunt Tiger," collected in China in the late 1960s.

With the next essay, Dundes begins what he calls the "avowedly interpretive portion of the casebook." George Husing, writing in 1914, denies that Red Riding Hood was either a devolved myth or a traditional folktale. P. Saintyves's 1923 myth-ritual approach presents a contrary interpretation. Next Hans Wolf Jager uses historical data to suggest that both Ludwig Tieck's and the Grimm brothers' portrayal of Red Riding Hood may have reflected German fears of French expansion. Also using a largely historical approach, Jack Zipes describes the two literary versions as morality plays of sexist ideology, with differences corresponding to cultural differences between Perrault's France, and the Grimms' Germany. Zohar Shavit likewise examines the two cultures with reference to the texts in his demonstration of how the concept of childhood has evolved in Western culture.

From this point, the essays turn to the psychoanalytic, beginning with Geza Roheim's argument for a dream origin of folktales and myths. Next Bruno Bettelheim explains the tale as a symbolic coming of age story of the pubescent girl. Alan Dundes concludes with a discussion of scholarship on Little Red Riding Hood.

Little Red Riding Hood: A Casebook is an excellent introduction to scholarship on the Little Red Riding Hood tale. Perhaps more importantly, though, it is an introduction to, and celebration of, the history and diversity of folklore studies. Because the book is both fascinating and fun, I recommend it highly.